



**Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Alaska Workforce Investment Board**

**Executive Director's Report
March 26, 2010**

The last AWIB Meeting was held on February 22nd and 23rd in Juneau at Centennial Hall. The agenda included an update on the draft Healthcare Workforce Development Plan, briefings from the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, a Gasline Training Plan update, a statewide CTE Plan update, an RTC/RAC update, time allocated for review of proposed STEP regulations, and presentation of the vocational administrator/instructor of the year awards. The STEP regulations were approved by the AWIB at the February meeting in Juneau and have been sent to the Department of Law for final review. Commissioner Bishop and Chair Lynch presented Melissa Reese from Valdez High School with the Secondary Vocational Training Instructor of the Year and Tom Minder from the Alaska Joint Electrical Apprenticeship Training Trust as the recipient of the Postsecondary Vocational Training Administrator of the Year.

The next AWIB meeting is scheduled for May 3rd and 4th in Anchorage at the King Career Center. The agenda will be developed over the next few weeks and reviewed by the Executive Committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting on April 13th. Michelle Zenger, Doug Ward, and I attended the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Conference in Washington, D.C. from March 6th through 9th. Attending the Conference was very beneficial and we will be providing a report to the board at the May AWIB meeting.

A meeting of the Alaska State Energy Sector Partnership (ASESP) was held on March 18th in Anchorage to determine the need for additional participants, review the strategic planning process and project implementation timeline, and solicit input from the ASEP members. The ASEP reviewed the training grant which was awarded in the amount of \$3,600,000 from the U.S. Department of Labor under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The grant proposes to train over 700 workers over the next three years to increase the supply of workers with energy-efficiency skills to support energy efficient end user technology and the hydroelectric, wind turbine, geothermal, and biomass industries. The next ASEP meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to continue review of the strategic planning process, review and refine the project implementation timeline, and discuss a draft Request for Grant Application and process.

The next Career and Technical Education (CTE) Work Group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 13th in Anchorage. The plan identifies strategies for the Alaska Career and Technical Education Plan, key action steps and a timeline for monitoring progress of the State CTE Plan, the mission of CTE within Alaska's Education and Workforce

Development systems, and reviews the status of new and ongoing CTE initiatives and partnerships. A considerable amount of work has been completed on the CTE Plan in a very short timeframe. I would like to thank Jeff Selvey from the AWIB staff, and Helen Mehrkens and the CTE Staff from the Department of Education and Early Development for their outstanding effort on the State CTE Plan which can be viewed at labor.alaska.gov/awib/cte.htm. The AWIB will review the most recent draft of the State CTE Plan at the May AWIB meeting.

The next Gasline Training Plan Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21st in Anchorage. The Committee will be reviewing the Pipeline Training Project Update, Gasline Training Plan Implementation Schedule, action to date on the four strategies contained in the Plan, receive an update from the Office of the Federal Coordinator and Office of the AGIA Coordinator, and a budget and expenditure update. The Committee will also be reviewing project and manpower updates from TransCanada and Denali, and updates from training providers including the University of Alaska, AVTEC, Regional Training Centers, Alaska Works Partnership, and the Fairbank Pipeline Training Center.

A considerable amount of work and updating has been completed on the AWIB website at <http://www.labor.alaska.gov/awib/home.htm> and now includes links related the Alaska Gasline, Registered Apprenticeship, Career and Technical Education, Education Plans, Grants, Regional Advisory Councils, Regional Training Centers, and the AWIB Newsletter.

In closing, I am pleased to welcome two new members to the AWIB. Pearl Strub from the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation and Ken Peltier from the Alaska Operating Engineers/Employers Training Trust were recently appointed to the AWIB by Governor Parnell. Please welcome our new board members to the AWIB!

Committees

- The next Policy and Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 25, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.
- The next Youth Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 7, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.
- The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.
- The next Workforce Readiness/Employment Placement Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.

- The next Assessment and Evaluation Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 20, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.

Important Dates

- The next CTE Plan Work Group meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2010 in Anchorage.
- The Alaska State Energy Sector Partnership meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Anchorage.
- The next Gasline Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2010 in Anchorage.
- The next Regional Training Center meeting is scheduled for April 26th and 27th, 2010 in Anchorage.
- The Apprenticeship Conference is scheduled for April 28, 2010 in Anchorage.
- The ACTE Region V Conference is scheduled for April 29th through May 1st, 2010 in Anchorage.
- The next May AWIB meeting is scheduled for May 3rd and 4th, 2010 in Anchorage at King Career Center.
- The Alaska Strategic State Plan for Title 1 of WIA and the Wagner-Peyser Act is due to the U.S. Department of Labor prior to the expiration of the current Plan on June 30, 2010.
- The WIA Annual Report is due to the U.S. Department of Labor October 1, 2010.
- The October AWIB meeting date has been set for October 25th and 26th, 2010.